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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY ANTI-TERRORISM SUMMARY



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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NORTH DAKOTA

(North Dakota) Case Count in Minot Hepatitis C Outbreak at Fifty-One. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has confirmed one additional case of hepatitis C related to the outbreak in Ward County, bringing the total number of cases to 51. The case was identified as part of the NDDoH's continuing investigation into the outbreak. <http://www.ndhan.gov/data/mrNews/2014-12-23-Outbreak%20Count%20at%2051%20NR-v.FINAL.pdf>

(Fargo) City Battling Changes to FEMA Flood Levels. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is taking another look at the 100 year flood measurements in the City of Fargo after a local delegation, led by Interim Mayor Tim Mahoney, attended a meeting with FEMA in Washington, D.C. <http://www.valleynewslive.com/home/headlines/City-Battling-Changes-to-FEMA-Flood-Levels-286618821.html>

REGIONAL

(Wyoming) PacifiCorp Energy pleads guilty in bird deaths. The U.S. Department of Justice announced December 19 that Oregon-based PacifiCorp Energy will pay \$2.5 million in fines after its Wyoming subsidiary pleaded guilty to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act after the discovery of more than 370 dead birds at the company's Seven Mile Hill and Glenrock/Rolling Hills wind projects in Carbon and Converse counties from 2009 to 2014. http://www.parkrecord.com/letters-to-the-editor/ci_27171992/pacificorp-energy-pleads-guilty-bird-deaths

(Minnesota) Mall of America temporarily closes stores amid Saturday protest. Several stores on the east side of the Mall of America in Bloomington were closed for more than 4 hours December 20 after about 1,500 individuals gathered in a non-public space for a non-approved demonstration. Police arrested at least 20 individuals for various offenses but reported no injuries or incidents of violence or theft. <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/3639488-mall-america-temporarily-closes-stores-amid-saturday-protest>

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(Minnesota) Bomb squad determines suspicious suitcase not a threat. An apartment complex and nearby buildings in downtown Rochester, Minnesota, were evacuated for more than 3 hours December 23 while authorities investigated a suspicious suitcase that was left propped against a natural gas line. The scene was cleared after the St. Paul Bomb Squad determined the suitcase was not a threat. http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/bomb-squad-determines-suspicious-suitcase-not-a-threat/article_10834331-9eca-5a80-8d87-157012b30bbb.html

NATIONAL

(Georgia; New York) Feds bust alleged Delta Airlines gun-smuggling ring. A baggage handler for Delta Airlines and 3 other accomplices were charged December 22 for an alleged weapons smuggling operation in which more than 129 firearms and ammunition were smuggled from Atlanta to New York through carry-on luggage. Authorities in New York arrested one co-conspirator after an investigation determined he was working with the Delta Airlines ramp agent/baggage handler in the scheme. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/feds-bust-alleged-delta-airlines-gun-smuggling-ring/story?id=27777273>

(National) Staples says 1.16 million credit card numbers stolen in breach. Staples officials released December 19 a list of 115 U.S. stores that were affected by a security breach that was announced in October and reported that an estimated 1.16 million payment cards were compromised during the attack that started in July. The company stated that the company began removing the malware that infected the stores' payment systems in September. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/staples-says-1-16-million-credit-card-numbers-stolen-in-breach/>

INTERNATIONAL

(International) Easily exploitable NTP vulnerabilities put ICS operators at risk. Researchers with Google's Security Team identified and reported several vulnerabilities in the Network Time Protocol (NTP) which could allow low-skilled attackers to crash the NTP daemon or execute arbitrary code using publicly available exploits. The Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) released an advisory regarding the vulnerabilities due to the

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wide use of NTP within industrial control systems (ICS) deployments.

<http://www.securityweek.com/easily-exploitable-ntp-vulnerabilities-put-ics-operators-risk>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

(International) Feds: Uganda-based man counterfeited \$2 million. A man was charged December 18 with allegedly manufacturing over \$2 million in counterfeit U.S. currency and shipping around \$270,000 to the U.S. from Uganda after he was arrested by Ugandan and U.S. authorities December 11. The alleged scheme was detected by bank employees in Pittsburgh who identified a counterfeit bill and an investigation found that counterfeits were shipped to individuals in Florida, Minnesota, Texas, and Washington. <https://www.indianagazette.com/news/reg-national-world/feds-ugandabased-man-counterfeited-2-million,21169993/>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

Nothing Significant to Report

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(Indiana) Indiana stage collapse victims reach settlement with Sugarland, Live Nation. Eighteen defendants, including country duo Sugarland and concert promoter Live Nation, agreed to pay \$39 million to resolve claims in connection with 2011 a stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair that killed 7 individuals and injured nearly 100 others. An investigation revealed that the stage rigging that collapsed did not meet industry safety standards and that fair officials lacked an appropriate emergency plan. <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/12/19/lawyers-indiana-stage-collapse-victims-reach-settlement-with-sugarland-live/>

(Florida) Molotov cocktails hurled into Miami Gardens cafeteria. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown into Shorty's Cafeteria in Miami Gardens December 23 during a possible arson attack that rendered the restaurant a total loss and damaged adjoining businesses. Police are investigating the incident. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/miami-gardens/article4911648.html>

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(International) RSA report dives deep into Backoff PoS malware. Researchers at EMC's RSA Security Division released a report analyzing the Backoff point of sale (PoS) malware, which found that the malware's operators may be based in India and have used the presence of exposed surveillance cameras to indicate whether a potential target was a retail entity, among other findings.

<http://www.securityweek.com/rsa-report-dives-deep-backoff-pos-malware>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Nothing Significant to Report

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

(National) Chrysler expands air bag recall to all of U.S. Chrysler announced December 19 that it was expanding its recall of vehicles equipped with airbags manufactured by Takata to include around 3.3 million additional vehicles, including 2.9 million in the U.S. The airbag inflators can shatter upon airbag inflation, potentially sending shrapnel into the passenger compartment.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/chrysler/2014/12/19/chrysler-expands-airbag-recall/20659371/>

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

Nothing Significant to Report

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Wisconsin) Officials: All 911 services restored after 7-hour outage. Frontier Communications' crews repaired a broken fiber optic line that was severed by a third party December 18, which knocked out 9-1-1 service to nearly 20,000 residents across several southern Wisconsin counties for approximately 7 hours. Customers were provided with a direct number to dial for emergencies while crews worked to repair the damaged line.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/adams-county-wis-dells-report-911-outage/30295488>

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(Colorado) FBI arrests Colorado man over online threats to kill police. A Colorado man was arrested December 22 after posting threats that encouraged the killing of police officers on a social media site. The FBI's San Francisco office was alerted by Google representatives December 17 after a user left a threatening comment on a YouTube video. <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/fbi-arrests-colorado-man-over-online-threats-to-kill-police/ar-BBh9XwK>

ENERGY

(Oklahoma) 2 killed, 3 hurt in Oklahoma oil rig explosion. Two workers were killed and three others were injured in an explosion and fire on the deck of a Pablo Energy-owned oil rig near Coalgate, Oklahoma, December 19. Authorities are investigating the cause of the explosion. http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2025269118_apxoilrigexplosion.html

(National) EPA announces first national regulations to safeguard disposal of coal ash. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced national regulations for the safe disposal of coal ash from coal-fired plants December 19, which includes safeguards to protect communities from coal ash impoundment failures and to prevent groundwater contamination and air emissions from coal ash disposal.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/OPA/ADMPRESS.NSF/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/8d1b001db717edbf85257db3006b2747>

(Pennsylvania) Gas pipeline company to pay \$800K for violations in 4 counties including Potter. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company will pay \$800,000 in a settlement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for water law violations committed in 4 counties during the construction of a natural gas pipeline between 2011 and 2012, which included the discharge of sediment pollution into the waters of the commonwealth.

http://www.bradfordera.com/news/article_f2610536-8a4b-11e4-a765-7b208e17c2c2.html

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(Wisconsin) Police: Man set fire to employer's buildings. Police arrested a man December 21 for allegedly setting fire to two large outbuildings on his employer's

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potato farm in Marathon County after he barricaded himself in one of the structures following a two-county chase by police that was initiated by reports of a domestic dispute. The suspect allegedly set fire to the structures then crashed his vehicle through one of the buildings before he fled the scene.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/crime/2014/12/21/man-arrested-lighting-fire-chase/20723835/>

(Minnesota) 150 pigs killed in barn fire north of Vernon Center. A December 21 barn fire on a farm in Mankato caused between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in damage to the structure, a vehicle, and an office and killed about 150 pigs. A firewall inside the structure helped contain the blaze to a small portion of the barn. <http://www.keyc.com/story/27690441/150-pigs-killed-in-barn-fire-north-of-vernon-center>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Maryland; Virginia) DEA employee charged in credit card fraud scheme. The U.S. Department of Justice announced December 20 that a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) employee was arrested and charged December 18 in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain and use 33 DEA government credit cards from June 2010 through October 2014 while she was employed as a DEA Program Manager in Virginia. The suspect allegedly submitted applications of individuals not employed with the DEA to acquire government-issued credit cards which were used at ATMs in Maryland and Virginia to withdraw approximately \$115,872. <http://www.thebaynet.com/articles/1214/dea-employee-charged-in-credit-card-fraud-scheme.html>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(International) Hackers used sophisticated SMB Worm Tool to attack Sony. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) issued an advisory and indicators of compromise after attackers were found to use a Server Message Block (SMB) Worm Tool in a recent destructive attack against a major entertainment company. The SMB Worm Tool contained five components, allowing it to compromise systems, enable backdoor access, and destroy hard

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drive contents. <http://www.securityweek.com/hackers-used-sophisticated-smb-worm-tool-attack-sony>

(International) The first polymorphic ransomware emerges, spreads on its own. Researchers with ESET and Sophos identified a new piece of ransomware known as VirLock or VirRansom that acts as a virus to infect several file types and scramble the files, then de-scrambles the files when a victim attempts to open them and installs the malware. The malware then locks the screen and demands a ransom be paid to unlock it. <http://news.softpedia.com/news/The-First-Polymorphic-Ransomware-Emerges-Spreads-On-Its-Own-468232.shtml>

(International) Rackspace restored after DDOS takes out DNS. Rackspace stated that it has recovered from a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack that began December 22 and lasted for about 11 hours, resulting in some legitimate traffic to the company's DNS infrastructure being blocked. http://www.theregister.co.uk/2014/12/24/rackspace_restored_after_ddos_takes_out_dns/

PUBLIC HEALTH

Nothing Significant to Report

TRANSPORTATION

(New Jersey) Police: North Jersey 'Conrail Boyz' gang busted; 10 accused of stealing from freight trains. The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office announced the arrest of 10 people affiliated with the "Conrail Boyz" gang December 18 who allegedly raided CSX and Norfolk Southern trains throughout North Jersey stealing high-end clothing, designer shoes, watches, cologne, liquor, and electronics. Authorities found the stolen property along with U.S. currency during their investigation. <http://www.northjersey.com/news/police-north-jersey-conrail-boyz-gang-busted-10-accused-of-stealing-from-freight-trains-1.1170929>

(Indiana) Coal cars derail causing delays, rail damage. A Chicago South Shore South Bend Railroad freight train derailed and knocked about 6 cars loaded with coal off the tracks and into several electrical poles in Michigan City December 19. South Shore Railroad commuter trains were delayed for 2 hours due to the

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derailment while crews worked to repair power lines. Source:

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/laporte/michigan-city-freight-train-derailment-disrupts-south-shore-service/article_c9e62b01-1744-5074-a3e5-648a96eddee0.html

(Oregon) Bend train's diesel fuel spill may be work of saboteur. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway train heading southbound from Prineville to Bend struck a rail December 23 spilling about 2,000 gallons of the train's diesel fuel which prompted the closing of Revere and Olney avenues crossings and the Greenwood Avenue underpass for several hours during cleanup efforts. The railway is investigating the incident as a potential act of sabotage.

<http://www.ktvz.com/news/train-diesel-fuel-spill-closes-ne-bend-crossings/30372512>

WATER AND DAMS

Nothing Significant to Report

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center:** 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov; Fax: 701-328-8175 **State Radio:** 800-472-2121; **Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI):** 701-328-5500; **North Dakota Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455; **US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst:** 701-297-7400; **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875; **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241.

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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